



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mr. B.C. Hornady
Serial No.: 09/833,847
Filed: 04/12/01
Art Unit: 3612
Examiner: Hilary L. Gutman
Title: Apparatus for Covering Payloads
Responsive To: Office Action mailed January 9, 2003

(21B)
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RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.13 and 1.116

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir or Madame:

Please accept this response to the Office Action mailed January 9, 2003.

Drawings (Paragraph 1 of Office Action)

In response to the Examiner's objection to the drawings in paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the applicant is preparing the revised drawings, showing the plurality of spring loaded locking mechanisms (also sometimes referred to as snap shackles) and the safety cable which are referenced in the Specification. Pursuant to the undersigned's telephone conference with Examiner on April 21, 2003, Applicant understands these may be provided subsequently to this response.

Claim Rejections (Paragraphs 2-3, & 8 of Office Action)

In paragraphs 2-3 and 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner responds to Applicant's previous arguments concerning claims 1-3 and 15-16. Specifically, in its responses dated October 18, 2002 and December 3, 2002, Applicant traversed Examiner's contention that such claims were anticipated by JP '573. Applicant attempted to demonstrate in its previous responses that JP '573 does not